

Objections to the specifications

Acronyms should be spelled out at their first occurrence.

Please amend the Specification to spell out acronyms.

Paragraphs were not complete in replacement paragraph format

[0035] The project management component, workflow components, and e-mail systems are programs that execute in computers. Project management system programs are provided by Microsoft and other software vendors such as Micro Planning X-PERT. Microsoft Project will be used to illustrate a project management component in a preferred embodiment. Workflow system programs are provided by BEA Systems, Extricity, and other companies. The BEA Web Logic Process Integration, WLPI, system will be used to illustrate a workflow component in a preferred embodiment. The adaptations of the project management and workflow programs are implemented as software programs written in Java, C++, Microsoft Visual Basic, or a number of programming languages. Microsoft, IBM, and many others provide e-mail system programs. Extricity, Netfish, Tibco, and others provide Business-to-business server programs. Microsoft, Netscape, Apache and others provide Web server programs. Oracle, Microsoft, IBM and other companies provide database system programs. These programs execute in computers manufactured by, for example, IBM, Sun, Dell, and Compaq. The computers may be, for example, PC's (Personal Computers), workstations, mainframes, and hand-held computers. The computers may have an operating system such as UNIX, LINUX, Microsoft Windows 2000, and IBM OS/9000. The computer is connected to a network that may be, for example, a LAN, (Local Area Network) WAN, (Wide Area Network) Internet, Intranet, wireless LAN, or wireless Internet.

[0036] In Figure 8, the route steps are executed by people at computers, workstations, hand held computers, personal digital assistants, wireless devices such as PC's, phones, PDA's (Personal Digital Assistants), pagers, etc. that are connected to the Internet 125 or other network. The Web browser 127 and the e-mail client 128 represent these users. Some steps are executed by other

systems or programs and are represented by the Business-to-business integration server 122. The workflow component 121 is the interface to the users and programs that execute the route steps and is connected to Web server 120, to Business-to-business server 122, and to an e-mail server 124 as a MAPI, Mail Application Program Interface, client. The workflow component 121 is connected to a Database server 129 where the task identification to route segment identification relationship is maintained. The project management component 123 is connected to the e-mail server 124 as a MAPI client and to the Database server 129 where the task and route identification relationship is maintained.

Objection to the Abstract

The amendment was not in replacement paragraph format.

Delete the Prior Abstract and replace with the Amended Abstract

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~This invention is related to project planning and management systems and in particular to the control and tracking of the execution of the process steps that comprise a project.~~

~~In the present invention, a project is divided into tasks for which the time and resources are estimated, the connections among the tasks established, and from these the overall schedule and resources calculated. A workflow route segment is a sequence of process steps to implement a task. A route segment is developed for each task and the route segments are connected based on the task to task connections to form a project route. The execution of the project is tracked by relating the completion of a step of the project route to the completion of a portion of the related task. If the project is re-planned and new task to task connections are created, a new project route is created by connecting the route segments related to tasks using the new task to task connections.~~

A project management workflow system provides the capabilities of a project management system for computing the estimated end date for a time sequence of tasks to complete a project and the capabilities of a workflow system for processing routes that implement the tasks and real time feedback on the execution of the tasks. Each task has an associated route defined to implement the task so as the sequence of tasks is changed or tasks are changed, the sequence of execution of the routes correspondingly changes. When a task starts in the project management system, then the corresponding route is started in the workflow system. When the route completes in the workflow system, then the corresponding task is completed in the project management system.